

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-16 are pending. Claims 9, 14 and 17-19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The objections to the drawings have been overcome by the amendments to the specification, the claims and the drawings as explained below.

Claims 17-19 were cancelled solely to comply with USPTO procedural requirements. Independent claim 16 claims a conveyor system that includes a carriage riding on a track comprising a linear actuating system. A linear actuating system according to paragraph [37] includes "a chain and gears, a belt and pulleys, or a piano screw". Moreover, the Abstract recites that "the linear actuating system could include a belt and pulleys, a chain and gears, or a threaded lead screw ". Hence, the scope of the "linear actuation system" as recited in independent claim 16 is not altered by the cancellation of dependent claims 17-19.

Paragraph [44] of the specification indicates that movement of a carriage 150 is sensed by a home position sensor 172 and an end travel sensor 170. Further, Fig. 2 and paragraphs [32] and [33] disclose a dual axis plate conveyor system. Figure 2 was thus modified as marked in red ink, and the specification has been amended at lines 1-2 of page 14 to show the embodiment of a dual axis plate conveyor system having a home position sensor 172 and an end travel sensor 170 for detecting home or travel positions of the first axis carriage 150A, and a home position sensor 172B and an end travel sensor 170B for detecting home or travel positions of the second axis carriage 150B.

The reference numeral 622 of Figure 6 has been included in amended paragraph [51].

Figure 1 has been modified as marked in red ink to identify the external drum 22 as referenced in the specification. Also, the erroneous marking of reference numeral 22 in Figure 2 has been removed.

The objection to the Abstract has been overcome by amendment thereto.

Claims 9 and 14 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This objection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 9 and 14. The support surfaces of independent claims 1 and 11 can be made of various materials including Wilsonart High Wear Laminate® and Formica® as disclosed in the specification, hence the cancellation of claims 9 and 14 does not limit the claimed subject matter of the independent claims. Claims 9 and 14 were cancelled solely to overcome USPTO procedural requirements without changing the scope or coverage of the underlying base claims.

A Letter to the Office Draftsman and REPLACEMENT SHEETs of Figures 1 and 2 with proposed changes marked in red accompany this response. Also included are new formal drawings of the amended Figures 1 and 2.

No new subject matter has been added to the application.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

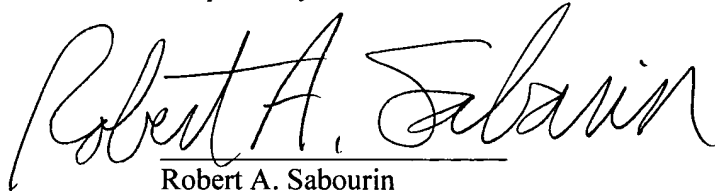
No fees are due with this response. However, if an error has been made in the fee calculations, please charge any excess fees due and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3377 under this general authorization.

It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions

between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert A. Sabourin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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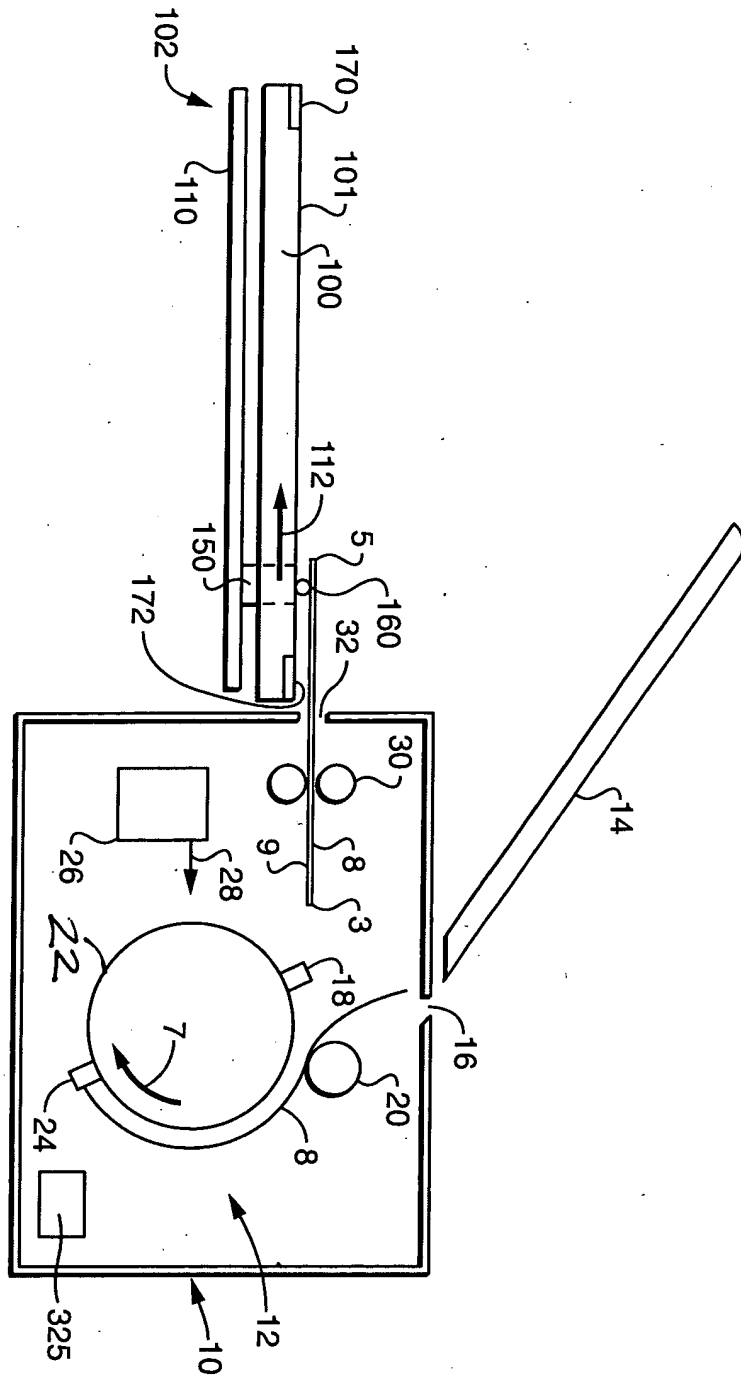


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

